

a terribly bad back. Oh, it was bad. He refused to go to the doctor. He refused to go to the hospital, which is where he should have gone. We took him to the doctor down here. The sweat, because of the pain, was pouring off his face.

He was a very tough man. I will always remember that phone call I got from Pete Rouse. I will always remember Paul Wellstone. The loss of his presence has been felt and missed every day. He added a new dimension to the Senate. You don't always have to win to be a winner. So I say to his sons, David and Mark, and the entire Wellstone family, Paul Wellstone will always be in my heart and in the hearts of anyone who knew him.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I, too, today wish to comment on the remarkable life of Paul Wellstone. Elaine and I got to know Paul for two reasons. No. 1, they lived right near us on Capitol Hill and we would frequently see them coming and going. No. 2, Sheila was from eastern Kentucky, and we had an opportunity to share observations about those good people in eastern Kentucky from whom she sprang.

Today is indeed a sad anniversary. I join the Senate family in honoring the memory of Senator Paul Wellstone and celebrating his distinguished Senate career.

He was the most unlikely Senator. His election in 1990 was widely considered kind of a fluke, an accident. But he was neither. He was the genuine article, an extraordinary man who came to work every day with enthusiasm. He had a very upbeat outlook on life. Sometimes people who are either on the very left or the very right have a kind of grim view of things. Paul would, by his own admission, say he was on the very far left of things, but he didn't have a grim nature about him at all. He was upbeat and optimistic, and he came to work every day ready to fight for what he believed in.

Paul was a champion of mental health and other causes. With Paul, you never had any uncertainty about where he stood. It was absolutely clear. I am having a hard time recalling a single matter upon which he and I agreed, but Paul was what I would call a conviction-based politician, a public servant who never wavered from his beliefs, even when the political winds shifted against him.

He and Sheila—that eastern Kentuckian I talked about—were absolutely inseparable. High school sweethearts, they had been married for 39 years when, regrettably, the plane carrying them, their daughter Marcia, three staff members, and two pilots went down in Eveleth, MN, on the way to a debate in Duluth.

The entire Nation grieved that day for this former wrestling champ, an unlikely and, as I indicated, unforgettable Senator. We grieve on this anniversary with Paul's two surviving sons,

David and Mark, and the many former Wellstone staffers, the Wellstone people who worked so hard to carry on his legacy. As the majority leader indicated, he had a distinguished academic career, earned his bachelor's degree in 1965 and his doctorate 3 years later. He plowed right through college at the University of North Carolina, both his undergraduate degree and his doctorate. He was a Phi Beta Kappa. That is about as good as it gets for a student at college. He actually attended on a wrestling scholarship.

Paul was not very tall. He was 5 feet 5 inches or 5 feet 6 inches but a strong guy. He was a champion Atlantic Coast Conference wrestler. He was named to the all-ACC wrestling team.

As the majority leader outlined, Paul was a great professor, widely loved and admired by his students, and I think it is safe to say he was widely admired and loved by his colleagues in the Senate.

We will always remember Paul Wellstone.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first portion and the Republicans controlling the final portion.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

REMEMBERING PAUL AND SHEILA WELLSTONE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to speak this morning to honor the memory of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. Today, it is exactly 5 years ago that they died in a plane crash outside Eveleth, MN, a beautiful area of our State called the Iron Range, where, in some ways, Paul Wellstone got his political start. Part of it was the farms of southern Minnesota, when he stood up for farmers when the farms were being foreclosed on. But part of it was the work he did with those iron ore miners. My grandfather was an iron ore miner who worked 1,500 feet underground in the mines of Ely, MN, about a half hour away from where Paul died.

Paul Wellstone's daughter Marcia was also killed in the crash—his longtime staff members, Mary McEvoy, Tom Lapik, and Will McLaughlin, as well as the pilot and copilot of the plane. On this day, 5 years later, the people of Minnesota are remembering

that crash and remembering Paul and Sheila. It is so hard to believe it has been 5 years since we have lost them. It feels both so long ago and not so long ago at all. Part of why it doesn't seem so long ago to me is because everywhere I go in this Capitol, people remind me of Paul. When I say I am a Senator from Minnesota, they remember Paul—people such as TED KENNEDY, who worked with him on mental health issues, to the tram drivers, who for years and years have driven that tram from the Capitol to the Senate office buildings. When I said I was this new Senator from Minnesota, the driver said, "Paul Wellstone was a Senator from Minnesota."

The cops who guard at the Capitol remember Paul. The secretaries in the offices remember Paul. That is because he treated everybody with such dignity in this Capitol and with such dignity in our State. That was Paul Wellstone.

For me, as for so many other Minnesotans, it is impossible to forget the moment we first heard about the plane going down and then the wait to get the final news that there were no survivors.

Paul and Sheila would be the first to tell us we should not look back on what they accomplished and stood for. They would be the first to insist our responsibility is to look ahead to the work that still must be done to carry their legacy forward.

Although Paul and Sheila are no longer with us, we know their dreams and passions remain very much alive. I get my own special reminder every day, not just with the employees in the Capitol but because the flag from Paul's Senate office hangs in our Senate office. It is a powerful reminder to me of Paul and all he tried to do in Washington.

During his lifetime as an educator, as an activist, and as a Senator, Paul inspired people throughout Minnesota and throughout America.

Even now, his work and his spirit continue to inspire people of all ages, from all walks of life, all across our country, who remember Paul for the fundamental values he fought and struggled for.

He was a voice for the voiceless. He and Sheila stood for victims of domestic violence who were afraid to talk about it, afraid to go to court. They stood for them and made this their life's passion.

He brought power to the powerless—people such as the iron miners in Minnesota, people such as those farmers whose homes and farms were foreclosed on.

He brought justice to those who suffered injustice.

He brought opportunity to those who didn't have opportunity. When going to any small community event in our State or to events with large immigrant populations, they all remember Paul coming to their marketplaces or how he would meet with the women. Some of them—the elders—can hardly

speaking English, but they can say "Wellstone."

I know I will forever be humbled by the oath I took to be a Senator from Minnesota. I know that not I nor anyone else can truly follow in Paul's footsteps. But he is an inspiration for us all.

Paul was my friend and mentor. He taught me how to campaign on a city bus. When I first ran for office, for county attorney, we would get on a city bus and work the entire bus. We would meet everybody on the bus. When we would get to the end of 8 blocks, we would say we are at our stop and get off. Then we would get back on a bus going the other way. We would go around for hours until we met everybody on those buses in Minneapolis that afternoon. He worked bus by bus, block by block, precinct by precinct to touch people in a way that made people believe, made people know that involvement in politics could make a real difference in their lives. That is what he told those new immigrants, new citizens. He told them that involvement in politics could make a difference in their lives. He did it not only by his words but by how much he went out and touched them and were a part of their life.

Paul was a crusader and a man with many passions. Anyone who ever met or talked with him quickly found out he had a special passion for helping those with mental illness. That was shaped by the suffering of a member of his own family. Many of you may know Paul's story about his brother Stephen.

As a young child, Paul watched his brother's traumatic descent into mental illness. When Stephen was a freshman in college, he suffered a severe mental breakdown and ended up spending the next 2 years in mental hospitals. Eventually, he recovered and graduated from college with honors. But it took his immigrant parents years to pay off the hospital bills.

Writing about this, Paul recalled the years that his brother was hospitalized. "For two years," he wrote, "the house always seemed dark to me—even when the lights were on. It was such a sad home."

Decades later, Paul knew there were still far too many sad homes in our great Nation—too many families devastated by the physical and financial consequences of mental illness.

Paul knew we could and we should do better. For years, he fought to allocate funding for better care, better services, and better representation for the mentally ill. For years, he fought for mental health parity in health insurance coverage.

Finally, this year, at last, it looks as if Paul's dream may finally come true. Last month, the Senate unanimously voted in support of legislation that will guarantee equity for mental health insurance coverage.

This will be a victory—if we can get this passed and work with the House and get as strong a bill as possible—for

millions of Americans living with these mental illnesses who have faced unfair discrimination in their access to affordable, appropriate health care and treatment.

For Paul, this was always a matter of civil rights, of justice, and of basic human decency.

Of course, on this issue—as every other issue—Sheila and Paul were together and they moved quickly. Paul and Sheila had so much energy, and they were always on the move. They brought such enthusiasm and joy to their work. They were animated, tireless, and persistent in their fight against injustice.

Sheila Wellstone was a leader in her own right. I had the opportunity to work closely with her when I was the chief prosecutor for Hennepin County. They focused on domestic violence. She was instrumental in creating the Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center, which I supervised during my 8 years as county attorney. That center is a national, an international, model for serving the victims of domestic violence by bringing together a full range of services and resources in one central, convenient location. Victims of domestic violence don't have to go through the redtape that would even be hard for a lawyer to figure out. There is a center where children can come and play, for prosecutors and police, and a shelter, all located under one roof.

Sheila knew the statistics on domestic violence. She knew these kids are six times more likely to commit suicide if they grew up in a home with domestic violence. They are 24 times more likely to commit sexual assaults. They are 60 times more likely to exhibit delinquent behavior. Most chilling of all, little boys who would witness domestic violence are 100 times more likely to become abusers themselves.

Sheila knew these numbers, but even more, she knew the names and the faces of the victims of domestic violence. She knew their children. It made her all the more determined to do something about it because, in America, of all places, kids should be free to grow up with safety and security and peace of mind.

I remember the last time I saw Sheila and Paul. It was a few weeks before the tragic crash. Sheila and I had been asked to speak to a group of new citizens, immigrants from Russia. It was a very small group. There were about 50 people there. We talked about our own immigrant experiences. She talked about her parents and growing up in Appalachia, and I talked about my Slovenian relatives coming over and making their way, saving money in a coffee can in the basement so they could send my dad to college.

We were in the middle of these stories in this very small room. All of a sudden I walked Paul. He wasn't supposed to be there. He had gotten an early flight home from Washington. He

wasn't supposed to be there because he was about a month out on one of the biggest elections for the Senate in the country. He had voted, had taken a brave vote, a courageous vote against the resolution on Iraq. He knew he was up for reelection. He knew it might cost him the election, but he did the right thing.

He came into that room where there was no press, no reporters, and a few weeks before this election. At the time I thought: Why did he do this when he has to be out there campaigning? I knew then that there were two reasons he did it. First is that he loved Sheila and he wanted to surprise her, and he wanted to be there by her side while she gave her speech and gave her remarks. But he was also there because he embraced the immigrant experience. He liked nothing more than talking about how you can come to this country with nothing and pull yourself up by your bootstraps. You can be a guy working 1,500 feet underground in the mines in Ely, MN, and your granddaughter can be a Senator. You can be someone with mental illness, such as Paul's brother, and grow up to get a college degree and be a teacher. You can be a victim of domestic violence and get your life back together and have a home for your kids. That is what Paul and Sheila stood for. That was their legacy.

Today in our State of Minnesota and throughout this country and this Capitol, we think of them and what they stood for, and we pledge to work again to fill their legacy.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is my understanding we are still in the majority's time period. I ask unanimous consent that it be set aside and reserved and that I be allowed to address the Senate in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am delighted to come to the floor today. I heard this morning the announcement by the Democratic leader, Mr. REID, that we probably will not bring the remaining five appropriations bills to the floor of the Senate before the year is out. Quite frankly, when the Republicans or Democrats have been in charge lately, it seems we have gotten into this situation going well past the fiscal year without acting on all the appropriations acts.

It seems to me as if, my ninth year in the Congress and my third year in the